



Communications Board
Fire and Emergency Medical Services
Monroe County, New York

Maggie Brooks
County Executive

Laurence Vaughan
Chairman

MINUTES OF MEETING: April 21, 2005

VOTING MEMBERS: Steve Bowman, Jack DeLisio, Scott Lancaster, Brian Peartree, Larry Vaughan, Tim Warth and Rick Zwaga

NON-VOTING MEMBERS: Tim Czapranski, Kevin Crouch, Tom Link, Rich Verdouw and Hank Wehner

OTHERS ATTENDING: Alex Chadis, Christine Fustanio and Rick Tracy

EXCUSED: Dick Barrett, Patty Bietry, Mike Lissow, Larry Mancine, Diana Pfersick and Ed Riley

ABSENT: Jay Coates, Tom Coyle, Ed Mager, Steve McClary, John Merklinger, Dave Pierce and Dave Timmons

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Vaughan at 5:00 p.m.

A quorum of voting members was not present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for March had to be tabled until the next meeting since there was not a quorum present. The April meeting, therefore, is “informational” only.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no correspondence items needing to be addressed at this meeting.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Reframing Committee – No report.

Digital Paging Committee – No report.

Communications Rules & Regulations Committee – No report.

BATTALION REPORTS

Battalion 1 – Tim Warth reported their next battalion meeting is April 24th. The Minitor 5 pagers are estimated at a cost of \$430/each. The June 2006 date was not received well; they prefer the January 2006 date. The narrowband transition is fine for now.

Battalion 2 – Larry Vaughan reported everyone seems to be in compliance with narrowband transitioning. Regarding the current number of digital pagers in use– 13 responded and only 2 wanted to postpone the transition (Hilton and North Greece).

Battalion 3 – Brian Peartree reported nothing new to report due to the rescheduling of their battalion meeting. Chief Jack DeLisio reported at least one EMS agency was split in their voting and is holding back on placing orders pending the successful testing of the new pagers.

Battalion 4 – Scott Lancaster reported they met last week and only 2 departments have ordered digital pagers so far. He feels many will be ordered, but probably closer towards the deadline of January 2006. The general consensus was most departments in his battalion are leaning towards voice tone pagers.

Battalion 5 – Chief Rick Tracy reported their department (Henrietta) has ordered digital pagers and will order voice pagers soon. They have not met since the last Fire/EMS Communications Board meeting.

911 DIRECTOR'S REPORT – No report.

ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE BOARD

Steve Bowman updated the board on the major communications projects. At the last meeting representatives were going to survey departments and agencies for feedback on the narrowbanding and digital paging projects. Steve asked that information be forwarded from the respective battalions prior to the next meeting.

Regarding the digital paging project, 50 model-paging units will be on hand for testing by June (30-45 days). After digital paging is up and operating, then they can run a six-month “on the air” test.

Regarding the communications infrastructure, the County is currently meeting with municipalities where a new tower structure is needed or a modification to a tower is needed to increase coverage.

Regarding voice alerting, the County is committed to voice paging.

There are a number of scenarios that need to be looked at before a transition can begin. Rich Verdouw added there are parts of the County where extra work is necessary. Steve Bowman feels though we are a bit behind schedule regarding narrowband transitioning, it is better to get it right the first time instead of trying to rush through the process and risk the possibility of errors. There is the possibility of linking the digital paging to the narrowband on a 6-month trial basis. Rich Verdouw was questioned regarding the estimated time of pager delivery, which he responded would be approximately 120 days from the date of the order. Steve Bowman and Rich Verdouw will tell everyone involved that **“no one is going to take voice paging away, and we are not going to something else until we know that everything installed is in proper working order.”**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

The next meeting of the Fire/EMS Communications Board is scheduled for Thursday May 19th, 2005, 5:00 pm, at the Public Safety Training Facility in the STEP Conference Room.

Christine Fustanio (reporting for Larry Mancine), Secretary
Fire/EMS Communications Board